



## Open Letter to the Lynchburg Community

By L. Kimball Payne, City Manager

In the midst of concern over the incident that involved the death of Mr. Clarence Beard, I proposed that the community engage in a discussion on racial issues in the City. I articulated the goals that the discussion be open, honest, inclusive, and sustainable. In order to determine the best structure for such a community dialogue I enlisted the support of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Lynchburg Community Council (MLKLCC) to explore alternatives. Subsequently, the MLKLCC was joined by the Neighborhood Executive Advisory Committee (NEAC) and some members of City staff. The group met for several months exploring alternative structures with a high point being meetings with representatives of Hampton's Unity Commission to learn from that city's experience. The research and discussion resulted in a consensus to utilize the Study Circles model for "The Lynchburg Community Dialogue on Race and Racism."

Study Circles have been used in numerous communities across the nation to address a variety of issues including racism, education, growth and development, and youth. They embody the democratic principles of equality, inclusiveness, and collaboration. A study circle is a small-group (10 to 15 people), facilitated dialogue that brings different kinds of people together around an issue and creates an opportunity for constructive, respectful conversation. The circles meet over time and, under the guidance of trained facilitators, the participants develop trust and relationships, as well as a shared understanding of the issue under discussion. An overall goal of the discussions is to come away with action steps that are productive and sustainable.

My goal is to have a minimum of 300, and ideally 1000, citizens participate through study circles in the Lynchburg Community Dialogue on Race and Racism. This will be an enormous undertaking over a period of approximately one year. Presently, a

working group is developing the program that will guide this effort. Additionally, sponsors are being sought to back this initiative and to help recruit a broad and diverse, cross section of the community to participate in the study circles process. We anticipate that there will be pilot study circles for the working group and sponsoring coalition members over the summer and into early fall. Program refinement and recruitment will take place in the fall and early winter. The full community study circles will take place over six to eight weeks after the first of the year.

How can citizens be involved in this important undertaking? There are many ways. First of all you can offer to assist with program development by serving on one of the committees that will assist the working group. Committees for communications, logistics, recruitment, facilitator training, evaluation, and planning for action are being formed. The logistics committee will be particularly busy in finding places to meet, setting up the rooms, providing food, etc. If as many as 1000 citizens participate in the study circles, between 75 and 100 different groups will need facilitators and meeting locations. For individuals with the appropriate skills and interests, serving as a facilitator (or co-facilitator) for the small group discussions would be very helpful.

Finally, the Lynchburg Community Dialogue on Race and Racism can only be successful if residents throughout the City participate in the study circles themselves. All of us, regardless of race, ethnicity, or socio-economic background want the best for our families and the community. The only way we can ensure that, is to work together.

I hope that each of you will consider becoming involved in this effort. If you are interested in participating please contact the coordinator of this effort, Debbie Campbell, at 455-3997 or [deborah.campbell@lynchburgva.gov](mailto:deborah.campbell@lynchburgva.gov).

Visit

**LYNCHBURG is LISTENING.COM | JUNE 9TH-16TH**

**Your city is working to attract more visitors and bring in new businesses. So we're asking everyone to tell us what makes Lynchburg so special. Take a moment to answer four quick questions at [LynchburgisListening.com](http://LynchburgisListening.com). We want to hear from you.**

What do you love about Lynchburg? What would make you love it even more? What's the one thing every visitor should experience? What are your top three favorite things to do in Lynchburg? Your answers to these questions will help to shape how Lynchburg promotes itself to visitors in the future. The "Lynchburg is Listening" campaign is part of a larger branding project being sponsored by the Marketing Partnership. The Marketing Partnership was created in 2005 by the City of Lynchburg, Lynchburg City Schools, the Lynchburg Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Lynch's Landing to utilize cooperative methods to promote the City and attract more visitors and businesses.

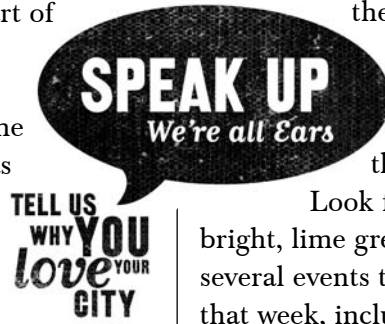
Information gathered through the "Lynchburg is Listening" campaign will be valuable in assisting the Marketing Partnership in the creation

of effective marketing and advertising tools. The campaign is being held June 9 - 16, with a kickoff press conference on June 8 at the Lynchburg Community Market. Lynchburg residents will have a number of opportunities to participate. A website, [www.lynchburgislistening.com](http://www.lynchburgislistening.com) has been created for those who prefer to take

the survey online. Water utility customers will also receive the four-question survey in their June water bills.

Look for volunteers wearing bright, lime green t-shirts surveying at several events throughout the City that week, including the June 9 HillCats game at City Stadium, the Shrimp Festival on June 14, and the Batteau Festival June 15 and 16. The ballots will also be available at several locations throughout the City.

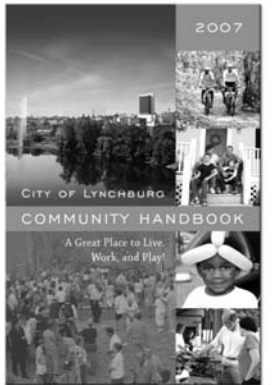
"Lynchburg is Listening" is a fun way to learn what people think about their City. We want to hear from you! We're all ears!



## Community Handbook Available

Where do I go for utilities connections? What is the schedule for garbage collection? Where can I find the services I need? The answers to these and other questions can be found in the Lynchburg Community Handbook. The Handbook is a useful resource for local government and community services information. New residents and long time residents alike will find the information helpful.

The Handbook was mailed to all Lynchburg residents in January, and additional copies are available at several locations throughout the city, including the Lynchburg Public Library and City Hall. The Community Handbook is provided free of charge to individuals and non-profit organizations. Realtors, banks, insurance companies and other businesses that work with new residents especially, may find the Community Handbook as a great addition to their customer service. Businesses may purchase the handbooks in quantity for a nominal fee. For more information, please contact the Communications & Marketing Department at 455-3803.



## Annual Water Quality Report

The annual Water Quality Report was recently included with May water utility bills. If you have any questions or comments about this report or about your water, please contact Leslie Gryder at 455-4263.

Tours of the College Hill or Abert Water Filtration Plants are available for school, civic, neighborhood, and other groups. Also, Utility Department personnel are available for group presentations on water supply, treatment, and quality. For information contact the Utilities Department at 455-4250.



## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

### FIRST COLLECTION DAY OF 2007!

For All Lynchburg and Amherst County Residents

**Saturday, June 9**

(8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

Waste Management Facility (Landfill) on Concord Turnpike



PLEASE NOTE: You must bring a photo ID with you! Please bring household hazardous waste items in non-returnable containers! Amherst County residents must bring a voucher from the Amherst County Solid Waste Department. Call 846-3324 to obtain a voucher.

### What CAN you bring to the collection site?

- Acids/Bases
- Aerosols
- Antifreeze
- Auto Starter
- Brake Fluids
- Batteries
- Cleaners
- Corrosives
- Drain Openers
- Flammables
- Furniture Stripper
- Herbicides
- Kerosene
- Lighter Fluids
- Oven Cleaners
- Oxidizers
- Oil Based Paint
- Pesticides
- Photo Chemicals
- Polishes
- Pool Chemicals
- Poisons
- Solvents
- Thinners
- Used Motor Oil
- Weed Killers
- Wood Preservatives

### What NOT to bring to the collection site!

- 55 Gallon Drums of Anything!
- Agent Orange
- Ammunition
- Dioxin
- Explosives
- Garbage
- Gas Cylinders
- Kepone
- Latex Paint
- Liquefied Asbestos
- Medical Waste
- Oil Tanks
- Pathological Waste
- PCBs
- PROWL
- Prozine
- Radioactives (Ex: smoke detectors)
- Recyclables
- Silvex
- Stomp
- TCDD

**Slide in the SUN and Have FUN!**

**Miller Park Pool**  
Opening Sunday, June 17  
Area's Largest Municipal Pool Complex!

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**June 17: Opening Day! Father's Day Special**  
(Dads get in FREE!)

**June 27: Water Safety Awareness Day**  
(extended hours until 9:00 p.m.)

**August 24: Back to School Special**  
(with K 92 Radio Remote)

For more information, call Lynchburg Parks & Recreation at 455-5858 or visit [www.lynchburgva.gov](http://www.lynchburgva.gov)

**DMV Select**

DMV Select Services are available at:

**Commissioner of the Revenue's Office**  
City Hall - 900 Church Street  
Lynchburg, VA

DMV Select Services

- Titles - original (with or without liens), substitute, replacement, title maintenance (change information on title records)
- Registrations - originals, renewals, transfers, re-issues and plate surrender
- Special and personalized license plate orders
- Trip permits, overload permits
- Handicapped parking placards
- Voter registration applications
- Transcripts - vehicle, driver
- Name and address changes not involving issuance of a driver license or ID card
- Dealer title and registration transactions
- Returned checks - full or partial payment

We accept: Cash, check, credit or debit card.

For more information:  
visit [www.dmv.virginia.gov](http://www.dmv.virginia.gov) or call:

**455-3870**